



State of Wisconsin
Office of Energy Independence

Jim Doyle, Governor
Judy Ziewacz, Director

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Contact: Eva Robelia, Office of Energy Independence, 608-261-6592

New Bioenergy Grant Program Announced

Joint effort to turn a fire hazard into an energy resource

MADISON, WI -- In an effort to minimize forest fires, the U.S. Forest Service Wood Education Resource Center (WERC) and the Wisconsin Office of Energy Independence (OEI) have joined forces to offer a grant opportunity to turn a fire hazard into a valuable bioenergy commodity for facilities with old boilers.

"We have been exploring ways to repower old boilers with bioenergy," said Judy Ziewacz, Director of the Wisconsin Office of Energy Independence. "By making use of the smaller diameter forest materials for boiler fuel the project will provide jobs in our state, build a market for fire reduction efforts and assist businesses to become energy independent."

OEI and WERC are seeking applicants for the bioenergy grant program. Public and private facilities can apply. The ideal candidate, from an economic standpoint, would have an older coal, heating oil or propane boiler. Six applicants will be chosen for feasibility studies and up to three applicants will be chosen for project construction. Projects must be located in one of the 42 Wisconsin counties identified by the U.S. Forest Service as within a fire hazard reduction zone. This boundary is roughly counties north of State Highway 60.

The Wisconsin bioenergy grant program is administered by OEI, with funding from the U.S. Forest Service. Partnering agencies include: the Wisconsin Department of Administration, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and the Wisconsin Bioenergy Institute.

Applications are due January 31, 2011. For more information, a map of the eligible area and application materials, please visit the Office of Energy Independence at www.energyindependence.wi.gov.